

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method of organizing information, said method comprising,
2 employing a plurality of data objects contained within a data source,
3 employing a spatial paradigm for defining hierarchical relationships between said
4 data objects,
5 generating a plurality of display screens, each containing a virtual representation
6 of one or more of said data objects arranged, at least in part, in dependence on said spatial
7 paradigm, and
8 enabling said user to navigate said display screens in a substantially unrestricted
9 fashion.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of generating a plurality of display
2 screens further comprises optimizing said appearance of each of said display screens for a
3 rectangular display of a client.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising,
2 defining within a first of said screens a travel region, said travel region corresponding
3 to a second of said display screens according to said hierarchical relationship, and
4 displaying said second one of said display screens to said user in response to said user
5 selecting said travel region.

1 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising employing vector graphics in defining
2 said virtual representation.

1 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising employing raster graphics in defining
2 said virtual representation.

1 6. A method of viewing information, said method comprising,
2 employing a plurality of display screens, each of said display screens containing a
3 graphical representation of one or more data objects received from a data source,
4 employing a spatial paradigm for defining hierarchical relationships between said
5 data objects,

6 displaying, from an adjustable viewing perspective of a user, a first display screen
7 corresponding to a current virtual location of said user, and
8 enabling said user to navigate said display screens in a substantially unrestricted
9 fashion.

1 7. The method of claim 6 further comprising changing said virtual location to a
2 second user location in response to said user.

1 8. The method of claim 7 further comprising displaying a second display screen
2 corresponding to said second location.

1 9. The method of claim 8 wherein said step of displaying said second display screen
2 further comprises transitioning from said first display screen to said second display
3 screen in a substantially continuous manner.

1 10. The method of claim 8 wherein said step of displaying said second display screen
 2 further comprises,
 3 expanding said first display screen, and
 4 displaying, during said expansion of said first display screen, said second display
 5 screen.

1 11. The method of claim 10 wherein said step of expanding comprises scaling said
 2 first display screen over time.

1 12. The method of claim 11 wherein said step of scaling comprises at least one of
 2 linearly, sinusoidally and exponentially scaling said first display screen.

1 13. The method of claim 8 wherein said step of displaying said second display screen
 2 further comprises,
 3 contracting said first display screen, and
 4 displaying, during said contraction of said first display screen, said second display
 5 screen.

1 14. The method of claim 13 wherein said step of contracting comprises scaling said
 2 first display screen over time.

1 15. The method of claim 14 wherein said step of scaling comprises at least one of
 2 linearly, sinusoidally and exponentially scaling said first display screen.

1 16. A system for organizing information, said system comprising,
 2 a computing device adapted to employ a plurality of data objects contained within
 3 a data source, and a spatial paradigm for defining hierarchical relationships between said

4 data objects, to generate a plurality of display screens, each containing a virtual
5 representation of one or more of said data objects arranged, at least in part, in dependence
6 on said spatial paradigm, and to enable said user to navigate said display screens in a
7 substantially unrestricted fashion.

1 17. The system of claim 16 further adapted to optimize said appearance of each of
2 said display screens for a rectangular display of a client.

1 18. The system of claim 16 further adapted to define within a first of said screens a
2 travel region, said travel region corresponding to a second of said display screens
3 according to said hierarchical relationship, and to display said second one of said display
4 screens to said user in response to said user selecting said travel region.

1 19. The system of claim 16 further adapted to employ vector graphics in defining said
2 virtual representation.

1 20. The system of claim 16 further adapted to employ raster graphics in defining said
2 virtual representation.

1 21. A system for viewing information, said system comprising,
2 a computing device adapted to employ a plurality of display screens, each of said
3 display screens containing a graphical representation of one or more data objects received
4 from a data source, and a spatial paradigm for defining hierarchical relationships between
5 said data objects, to display, from an adjustable viewing perspective of a user, a first

6 display screen corresponding to a current virtual location of said user, and to enable said
7 user to navigate said display screens in a substantially unrestricted fashion.

1 22. The system of claim 21 further adapted to change said virtual location to a second
2 user location in response to said user.

1 23. The system of claim 22 further adapted to display a second display screen
2 corresponding to said second location.

1 24. The system of claim 23 further adapted to transition from said first display screen
2 to said second display screen in a substantially continuous manner.

1 25. The system of claim 23 further adapted to expand said first display screen, and to
2 display, during said expansion of said first display screen, said second display screen.

1 26. The system of claim 25 further adapted to scale said first display screen over time.

1 27. The method of claim 26 wherein said scaling comprises at least one of linearly,
2 sinusoidally and exponentially scaling.

1 28. The system of claim 23 further adapted to contract said first display screen, and to
2 display, during said contraction of said first display screen, said second display screen.

1 29. The system of claim 28 further adapted to scale said first display screen over time.

- 1 30. The method of claim 29 wherein step of scaling comprises at least one of linearly,
2 sinusoidally and exponentially scaling.

3